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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/939,646	08/28/2001	Melba Delaine Self	006910.2500	4509

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EXAMINER

BARFIELD, ANTHONY DERRELL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3636

DATE MAILED: 12/02/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/939,646

Applicant(s)

SELF, MELBA DELAINE

Examiner

Anthony D Barfield

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 September 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 and 7-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5, 7-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-2, 11, 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Keiswetter. Keiswetter shows the use of a chair cover having first and second cover surfaces (22) having a non-elastic flap (24) in order to form a pocket (20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goddard. Goddard shows the use of a chair cover (100,200) having first and second cover surfaces having a non-elastic flap (31,230) in order to form a pocket. The first and second cover surfaces along with a side pocket (80,82) may be disposed within the pocket upon folding and rolling up of the chair cover. Goddard shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention except the use of corners, which are substantially, square corners. Keiswetter shows the use of a chair cover having substantially square corners. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in

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the art at the time of the invention to modify the chair cover of Goddard with square corners as taught by Keiswetter in order to allow for a more uniform fit on a chair.

5. Claims 1-5 and 7-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Duke Jr. et al. Duke Jr. et al shows the use of a chair cover having first and second cover surfaces having a non-elastic flap (17) in order to form a pocket (18). The first and second cover surfaces along with a side pocket (20) may be disposed within the pocket upon folding and rolling up of the chair cover. Duke Jr. et al. shows all of the teachings of the claimed invention except the use of corners, which are substantially, square corners. Keiswetter shows the use of a chair cover having substantially square corners. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify the chair cover of Duke Jr. et al. with square corners, as taught by Keiswetter in order to allow for a more uniform fit on a chair.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed 9/11/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's argument that "*Keiswetter fails at least to disclose...a plurality of substantially square corner...disposed over a chair*", the examiner is of the opinion that Keiswetter does in fact show a cover having square corners that are maintained when disposed on a chair. The corners of the cover, as taught by Keiswetter, maintain their square shape (see Fig. 3.) especially in the two-dimensional plane (X-Y plane). It is irrelevant whether or not an inner seam forms the cover or not as the claim limitation only stated "square corners" not square corners formed as a result of inner seams or outer seams.

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7. Applicant's arguments fail to comply with 37 CFR 1.111(b) because they amount to a general allegation that the claims define a patentable invention **without specifically pointing out how the language of the claims patentably distinguishes them from the references.**

8. Applicant's arguments do not comply with 37 CFR 1.111(c) because they do not clearly point out the patentable **structural novelty** which he or she thinks the claims present in view of the state of the art disclosed by the references cited or the objections made. Further, they do not show how the amendments avoid such references or objections.

Conclusion


9. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Anthony D Barfield whose telephone number is 703-308-2158.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-2168.



Anthony D Barfield
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3636

adb
December 1, 2003